

Listening Session Comments by Stakeholder Group

Local Elected Officials Sessions

Option 1:

- Judge Greg Terry Carlisle County. 17 county judges passed a resolution for no change in BRADD area. Making headway with what they are doing today.
- Mayor of Hopkinsville proud of WKWIB and staff. Leave areas unchanged.
- Nortonville Mayor pleased with how her community is being served by the local WIB.
- Boyle Co Judge Executive wants to change to the BG region. 16 fiscal courts have voted to stay the same. Lexington is the hub for the BG region. It is a natural economic area. Don't cut the heart out of the region.
- Five Judge Executives attending session to express keeping BG region intact; extra costs incurred with splitting the region.
- Nicholas Co Judge sees Lexington as the heart of the BG; smaller counties need help with workforce development
- Lincoln Co Judge Executive does not see it as a win to split the BG region. Majority does not want the split. 5 out of 120 counties want change.
- 16 out of 17 judges voted to keep BG region together; Fayette is vital to all the BG region counties

Option 2:

- Mayor Bruce Wilkerson Bowling Green South Central KY Works Consortium (Allen, Simpson, Logan and Warren) have been incorporated and seeking 501c3 status to achieve their vision; this area accounts for 60% of the population; 70% of the businesses; 74% of jobs represented Working hard to bring jobs to this region and now having difficulty finding folks to fill these jobs. Inadequate talent supply. Looking to make an impact to break

through roadblocks for folks to get jobs. Want people to find jobs. Jobs are made locally, work locally and live locally. Being innovative in what we do and doing things the way we have always done it is not acceptable.

- Looking at obtaining additional funding to pay for costs of South Central KY Works Consortium organization
- If it is not broken don't fix it. The BRADD is broken. No trust in effectiveness of the BRADD. WIB uses the funds to support other BRADD efforts which are not legal or ethical; smaller counties have same voting privileges as larger counties
- Tried working with ADD director with no action
- Push back from WIB to improve things; need to push the envelope to improve things
- Act of desperation to get things changes for his region since it is the largest economic area with 4 counties

Regional Option:

- Does not want the consolidation of three LWIA's into a region and bringing in a local area with issues (BRADD)
- West Region too large for folks traveling over four hours from one area to another

LWIB Member Sessions

Option 1:

- Kris Williams Pres. Henderson Community College; Green River WIB; Supports Option 1. Meeting the needs. Fiscally responsible. Encompasses economic area. Involves employers today.
- Eldon Renaud – Union member of General Motors in Bowling Green; Barren River WIB; Attendance is very poor from the 4 county judge executives in the South Central consortium at the Barren River WIB. Doesn't understand why their needs are not being met. They don't attend the meetings to let folks know what their needs that are not being met. Former mayor of Bowling Green. Very familiar with the workforce dev system. Professional staff and board. Supports option 1.
- Karen Cecil Chair of Green River WIB; Supports option 1. Judges now have more interest since this process has started since the 5 judges [4 county judges in BR and 1 mayor in Lex] requested the WIB changes.
- Donnie Holland Cadiz Wabash manufacturer; Works with the local WIB. Likes the training he has been provided by local board; Supports option 1. Does not want to add any more cost to the system as a whole.
- Terry Martin Hart Co. Barren County WIB. New member of the WIB. BRADD has 10 counties has been in existence for 46 years. Take in consideration the other services of the ADD: aging, transportation and roads. Concern over what it will do to the other ADD services provided. Experience workers are at the BRADD today. Audits have always been clean. Thinks this came about from the Bluegrass audit. ADD's have always been doing it this way. Changes could come as a result of WIOA. Changes can be made locally. Address concerns the other four counties have with the issues. When you open it up past the ADD's administering it may cause problems. He believes in what the BRADD is doing today for his community. They have employers that need employee's w/soft skills. Their current WIB is addressing these needs today. Concentrate on school kids to

go into employers companies after graduation. Good paying jobs to be had. Sorry to see that 75% of youth funds go to out of school youth.

Option 2:

- Greg Head BRWIB member; and manufacturing employer; South Central KY region consortium he supports option 2; Doing the same thing getting the same results. They cover vast majority of the region. New practices that are best practices. Vision includes econ dev, workforce and education for their area. They can't find skilled workers from a survey they conducted. Need new ideas and practices to build partnerships to make this happen. Innovation based on evidence based practices
- Gary Dillard BRADD WIB member. Business representative. South Central region (4 counties). He supports option 2. WIA provides the opportunities to best align education, econ dev and workforce development. Communities toward this vision rep large vast of this area. Welcome other counties to their collaboration at any time. Continually improving economy under their leadership. Need new collaboration to meet the demand for new jobs. Accountable workforce practices. Will build cohesion and continuity to the region. Quality improvement. Seeking non-profit organization. Building a national organization.

Regional Option:

- Carlos Marin TENCO WIB for 15 years. Regional areas are huge. Concern on that type of approach. Managing programs and responses have been handled very well. Commuter issues with Carter and Elliott are close to TENCO. Wonderful impact within their service area. True collaborative effort. Demographics within the East are very different. Also with the West Region is very diverse as well.
- Dan Connell TENCO region. Member for 15 year. Actively involved. Local boards are designated as a region alone. Take the work of the board very seriously. Diverse issues across the regional recommendation. Merging all those counties together that his 10 counties would get lost. Areas south have

coal mining issues and have diverse sectors. Forcing into regions takes away local control.

- Scott Pierce Russell County. Member since 1983. Cumberland's operates outside the box. Performance leads the state. Regional concept with the viability of such a large region. TENCO could go with a northern region. EKCEP and Cumberland's shares common borders and counties. Too large an area.
- Carol Burchette WIB Board member for 30 years. Seen change over the years with the program. With change folks lose focus. Problems we have with coal layoffs are critical problems within this economic area. Change in our structure will cause staff to lose focus. Consolidation of areas will hurt the area. Continue EKCEP in its present form.
- Paul Dole WIB Board member on EKCEP. EKCEP has been serving this area for a long time. They have a bond within the area to help themselves. Don't understand the regional concept. Continue to work as one unit in Eastern KY. Successes in Knox County on a gentleman that attended a job club and has found a job. Concern for the amount of money in their area where it is needed. Training money has come to Knox County with Xerox due to training money that was available.
- Howard Blackburn EKCEP Board member for a few years. Regional area is distracting for the staff that is in place today. SOAR initiative serves this area well with EKCEP and other organizations. But going to a regional designation will have staff lose focus.
- Viva Anderson; Partners working together now. Spreading out the area to region wide would make it a challenge. Makes great progress working together to help folks with barriers to employment with the EKCEP area.

Community Stakeholder Sessions

Option 1:

- David Duttlinger BGADD. He supports option 1. Aligning economies of scale. Boundaries have existed since 1977. Please don't consider the audit's findings as consideration in determine the boundaries. We have worked on a robust corrective action plan. Synergy is at the heart of the current region. Community planning, aging and workforce development. Natural resources for the region are advantages keeping the 17 counties together. Cluster concept is proven track record. Regional advantage is taking place working together. You lose the integrity of the region with option 2. You lose the participation of the LEO's in the region.

Option 2:

- Greg Coker South Central Region consortium member; Supports Option 2; Use best practices to align education, econ dev and workforce dev.; they capture vast majority of the region; welcome remaining counties to join them; improve vibrant economy locally; need new and improved collaboration to meet the demand of the employers; building partnerships to meet the workforce dev needs; focused four key areas: visionary leadership, technology, investment and data outcomes. Engage a consultant to help them achieve their goals.
- Rick Christman CEO of Employment Solutions. Training provider. Short term programs. Designed for low income. Medical assisting program for entry level into health care system. 100% pass rate. ½ the cost of the program. Have not received one referral from BGWIB. Never received a referral. The ETPL has no information about placement rates. Don't know completion rates. Not a market based system. Cost per participant for BGWIB is more expensive than his rate. Option 2 is preferred. Need an effective and efficient workforce system.

- Jim Gray Mayor of Lexington. We support option 2. 40 years ago this region was created. Things are done different 10 years ago let alone 40 years. Lexington has deep concerns about the workforce trainings of the BGADD. Continue examine the request and concerns. Welcome neighboring communities to join them. Must be able to adapt a more streamlined region. No additional funding is being requested. Does not want to harm other communities. Wants to focus on Lexington's workforce needs. Councilmen attending today agree with this new model.
- Bob Quick Pres. and CEO of Commerce Lex. 1700 member organization. Employer's top concern is a workforce. Outdated model being used today. Supports Option 2. Represents a positive step to workforce development. Contiguous counties could be included into their WIB. Fayette County has worked with 8 counties for economic development. Bluegrass ADD is not at the table when doing economic development business. Option 1 keeping the same as it has been for the last 15 years is a mistake. Feedback from employers is that the system today is broken. WIOA present an opportunity for systematic change. State officials to change the delivery of workforce training to make it privately driven. Base your decision on data.
- PG Peoples President of CEO of Urban League of Lex. Urban League has been around since the late 60's in Lex. Focus on workforce in the urban core. Ran successful programs with JTPA, CETA and working with exoffenders. Ex-offenders are left behind. Urban League chose to work with them. Training came to a halt with the WIA to not focus on the urban core. Training was redirected to the BGADD. Community has more crime and thinks there is a direct correlation with no one focusing on this group. Support Mayor Grey's plan. Standalone entity for Lex. He has done focus groups and the focus from them is jobs. They need the capacity to help get jobs. Give us the opportunity to participate.
- Chris Ford Councilman in Lex.; Chair of council of social services committee. Has studied the workforce needs over the last 2 years. Pockets of the community are struggling with high unemployment in Lex. Status quo no longer works. Must adapt and evolve. Change is warranted. Serious thought

has gone into this decision. They speak with one voice on supporting Option 2. Change is needed for workforce development in the Bluegrass Region. Now is the right time to make the change for Lexington and the region. Lexington is not anti-regionalism. They support regionalism. Lexington is the heart of the BG region. Lexington is not anti-ADD. He worked for the Louisville region. BGADD workforce development is not strength of theirs.

Regional Option:

- Mike Howell Executive Director of Big Sandy Comm Action Agency; Eastern most part of the territory. EKCEP employee in 1978 – 1980. History goes back to the 60's for EKCEP. Rooted in the communities ever since. Opportunities to partner with several organizations in the region. EKCEP has great respect through the entire region. Their role has evolved with innovative services. Leadership and staff are ready to move forward with the new law. No change in the local area designations. Two sayings from the country folk: Never change horses in the middle of the stream. If it aint broke don't fix it.

Indifferent Option:

- Ron Sanders Exec VP People Plus staffing company, KY Chamber committee; Each person has a different perception of Workforce Dev.; have not heard a word about the job seeker to improve their quality of life; help the employer move ahead; they cannot follow the path we are on now; dysfunctional system; they have 50 open orders for drivers but need 250 drivers; truck drivers will be retiring; KY has no training for CDL drivers; no money is available; complexity of the delivery of system does not work; too many agencies involved; accountability is not achieved; efficiency is not achieved with our current system.
- Kim Menke Toyota. Serves on several industrial boards across the state. Struggles to find manufacturing skilled workers. Workforce needs are not being met currently today. Lack of interest from the private sector has left the BGWIB. This is not good for the growth for KY. Continuous improvement is a must to meet the needs to today's workforce. Collaborative approach with

KCTCS with Toyota is a model for the state. WIOA gives us 21st century approach to job training. Deep dive into the best way to make WIOA the most effective. Streamlining the approach to workforce

- Dave Adkisson. KY Chamber of Commerce; conducting a major review of the state workforce development system with a report coming out very soon. Resignation of business leaders from LWIB's are a message to the communities. Status quo is not supported. Establishing boundaries.

New Option:

- Billie Peavler Executive Dir. BEN of Commerce Lexington. Regional focus. Skilled workforce is critical to business success. WIOA allows us to strengthen our states workforce development system. Taking the criteria into consideration that Sec Brinly outlined to define a workforce area that Fayette County and the 8 contiguous counties fill the jobs in Lexington. Steering committee considers other options that the two presented today and use more data. Not to accept the status quo.